Hybrid Seeds

1478. SHRI G G. SWELL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an increased amount of hybrid seeds are being produced in the country by bio-technology;

(b) whether the phenomenon is likely to become an integral part of our agriculture;

(c) whether these seeds can be reproduced and multiplied; and

(d) what are the areas in which hybrid seeds are being produced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (d) (i) Two research projects have already been funded since March 1989 by the Deptt. of Bio-technology for the development of hybrid varieties/seeds by plant bio-technology namely, development of cytoplasmic male sterile (CMS) lines and proteolast route regeneration technique in rice. In addition, DBT has supported a number of R&D projects and six centres for plant Molecular Biology (CPMBs) for developing improved and high yielding varieties in plant agriculture.

(ii) In crop plants no hybrid seed is being produced in the country by the use of biotechnology.

(iii) Once hybrid seeds are grown they can not be reproduced as hybrid. In fact they become F2. (second generation). As such hybrid seeds are required to be produced a fresh each year.

Increase in prices of milk and ghee by Mother Dairy

1479. SHRI SHANKAR DAYAL SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of increase in the prices of milk and ghee sold by Mother Dairy in Delhi during the last three months; and

(b) the reasons for increase in prices and what is the profit to the Mother Dairy due to the increase?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) Mother Dairy increased the consumer price of standardised milk from Rs. 8.50 per litre to Rs. 9.00 per litre w.e.f. 18-09-1991 during the last 3 months. There has been no increase in the consumer price of double toned milk during last three months. Mother Dairy does not sell ghee.

(b) The increase in price was necessitated due to increased procurement price paid to state cooperative dairy federations for receipts of fresh milk. The average sale of Standardised Milk is 30,000 litres per day. The additional revenue earned as a result of the above increase in price is only Rs 15,000/- per day.

Fodder production

1480. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the available fodder resources meet only 50 per cent of the demand in the country; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to increase fodder production in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) The present fodder production in our country is not sufficient to meet the demand of existing livestock population.

(b) The Government of India has taken up or propose to take up the following programmes for increasing fodder production in the country.